



**Northumbria Healthcare**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Magseed Localisation of Breast

Issued by the breast team

You have a small lump in your breast that needs to be removed with an operation for treatment or diagnosis. The lump in your breast can not be easily felt by your surgeon, and they need a guide to make sure the lump is removed correctly during your operation.

## What is Magseed localisation?

Traditionally we would have placed a guidewire into the lump on the morning of your operation. Now instead of the guidewire we can use Magseed to find the lump.

The magseed can be placed into your breast up to 30 days before your operation. You can go about your daily life on the run up to your operation.

Occasionally, if we need to identify a specific lymph node we will place a magseed into this so it can be removed during your operation.

## What is Magseed?

Magseed is a 1x 5 mm metallic marker (seed), about the size of a grain of rice, which is placed inside the lump so it can be removed. It is surgical grade steel and sterile. It is similar to the marker clip already used by the radiologist to mark the breast biopsy site. It is placed in the lump by the consultant radiologist, (a doctor who specialises in x-ray) using mammogram or ultrasound guidance. You will need to attend the x-ray department so that this can be done.

## How will the Magseed be placed/inserted?

The procedure will be similar to the core biopsy you had done in the breast clinic, though this is less uncomfortable.

When you attend the x-ray department you will have a mammogram or an ultrasound scan of your breast to find the cancer. The consultant radiologist will then inject local anaesthetic into your breast. This may sting for a few seconds but will numb your breast quickly. Then a small thin needle will be used to place the Magseed in the lump that needs removing. You may feel some pressure in your breast during the procedure, but this is generally not painful. If you do feel any pain, please tell the staff and they will give you some more local anaesthetic. Sometimes we need to place more than one seed in your breast to identify all of the areas that need to be removed.

Afterwards a mammogram is taken to check the Magseed is in the correct place/position. A small dressing is placed over the puncture site. The procedure generally takes about 30 minutes. The magseed will not move from the lump so you can go back to normal activity afterwards.

You can remove the dressing after 24 hours. You can return to work and most activities the following day. Avoid heavy lifting for 24 hours. You may shower the following day but do not soak in the bath or go into a swimming pool for 48 hours. It is recommended you wear a comfortable supportive bra for 24 hours.

## How will Magseed be removed?

The Magseed is magnetic; it can then be found using a handheld magnetic probe during your operation. This helps the surgeon find the correct area of breast to be removed, making surgery easier. The probe makes sounds of different pitches and gives us a reading to let us know how close we are to the seed. The seed is then removed with the lump. The lump is sent to the x-ray department and images are taken to check the lump and the magseed are removed and that the margins are large enough.

## How safe is Magseed?

There is published evidence to show Magseed is safe. You can view the study here:

[https://journals.lww.com/aosopen/Fulltext/2020/12000/Effectiveness\\_and\\_Safety\\_of\\_Magseed\\_Localization.5.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/aosopen/Fulltext/2020/12000/Effectiveness_and_Safety_of_Magseed_Localization.5.aspx)

## What are the benefits?

Traditionally, a wire would be placed into the lump which surgeons would use to locate the tissue to be removed. Using the Magseed instead of a wire has some specific advantages:

- We can place the seed into the lump in advance, unlike the wire which would have been placed on the morning of your surgery. This makes the day of surgery less busy and stressful for you.
- Unlike the wire, the Magseed is so small that that you will not even notice it in your breast, and you can continue with your normal activities.
- With the use of the Magseed, surgeons are able to find the area more easily.
- The seed is removed during the operation with the lump.

## Possible risks

- Possible complications are the same as those of a core biopsy, including pain, bleeding, infection and inflammation.
- You may have some mild discomfort and bruising when the Magseed is placed in your breast. The local anaesthetic we will give you should reduce this. After the procedure if you do have any pain or discomfort then paracetamol or any of your regular pain killers can be taken. Avoid taking aspirin.
- You may have a small amount of bleeding on your dressing. This is normal. If you have any heavy bleeding that soaks through your dressing apply firm pressure. If this continues and you are concerned contact your breast care nurse, or visit the emergency department for advice.
- If you have any signs of infection such as high temperature and/or redness you should contact your breast care nurse and your GP.
- The needle used to insert the Magseed contains sterile beeswax, paraffin and a softening agent; there is a very small risk of an allergic reaction.
- On rare occasions the surgeon cannot find the Magseed during the operation. If the Magseed cannot be found your breast surgery cannot be done at that time. You will be woken from your anaesthetic and the consultant will discuss a new plan with you. You will need to return for another operation where a guidewire technique will be used to remove the lump in your breast.

If you have any further questions regarding Magseed, please do not hesitate to speak to your breast care nurse.

## Support contact numbers

Breast Practitioner Wansbeck General Hospital  
(01670) 529636

Breast Care Nurses North Tyneside General Hospital  
(0191) 293 4183

Breast Care Nurses Wansbeck General Hospital  
(01670) 529319

Breast Care Nurses Hexham General Hospital  
(01434) 655386

Breast Cancer Now Helpline 0808 800 6000 or website:  
[www.breastcancer.org.uk](http://www.breastcancer.org.uk)

Macmillan Cancer Relief Helpline 0808 808 00 00 or website:  
[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

Breast Care Campaign [www.breastcare.co.uk](http://www.breastcare.co.uk)



## Alternative Formats

If you would like a copy of this information in large print, another language, audio tape or other format please call the Contact Centre on 03 44 811 8118.

## Other sources of information

### NHS 111

### NHS Choices

[www.nhs.uk/pages/homepage.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/pages/homepage.aspx)

### NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence)

[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Freephone: 0800 032 0202

Text: 07815 500015

Email: [northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk](mailto:northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk)

### Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

General Enquiries 03 44 811 8111

[www.northumbria.nhs.uk](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk)

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